THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Soldiers Killed in Operation Parakram

†4406. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that 50 soldiers were killed by 15th March, 2002, during the 'Operation Parakaram';

(b) the number of military vehicles and assessories got damaged so far;

(c) the circumstances in which those soldiers were killed and equipments and vehicles damaged; and

(d) whether three Armed Forces are participating in this 'Operation Parakram'?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 176 Army Personnel died during 'OP PRAKARAM' upto 15th March, 2002. Out of this 50 Army Personnel were killed due to vehicle accidents.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

(d) Yes Sir.

Diversion of funds for Jawans to a School

4407. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news captioned "5 Crore for Jawans goes to school for bigshots" published in the Indian Express dated 31st march, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINSITER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The government is aware about the newspaper report captioned "5 Crore for Jawans goes to school for bigshots" published in the Indian Express dated March 31, 2002. The allegation made in the newspaper report is, however, not based on facts.

An amount of Rs. 5 crore was allocated to the "Civil Services Society", which stands registered with the Registrar of Societies, Delhi, as Grants-in-Aid in March 1996 from the trade surplus of the Canteen Stores Department for part financing the establishment of a school for the children of officials of the Armed Forces, All India and Central Services, Public Sector Undertakings and the general public. Out of the net annual profits generated by the Canteen Stores Department, 50% of the funds are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India and the remaining 50% is distributed as Grants-in-Aid to the Armed Forces; Inter Service Organizations and various establishments as welfare measure.

As far as the grants allocated to the Civil Services Society in 1996 is concerned, the same was approved by the competent Authority, after due scrutiny of the project report and securing an undertaking that the school shall reserve 25% of the seats for the children of the personnel of the Armed Forces or other entitled categories. The school is functioning and as such question of any enquiry into the matter does not arise.

Turnover Policy for AFHQ Civilian Employees

4408. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1991 a policy providing for Compulsory turnover of AFHQ employees on completion of prefixed tenure in one office was formulated;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said scheme/policy;

(c) whether the said policy has been changed/amended thereafter;